

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A suspension assembly comprising:
  - a slider body having a trailing edge face;
  - a bond pad positioned on the trailing edge face;
  - a conductive trace connected to the bond pad to form an electrical connection;
  - a heating element including a low resistivity portion and a high resistivity portion, the high resistivity portion positioned proximate the electrical connection; and
  - an insulating component positioned between the conductive trace and the heating element proximate the electrical connection.
2. The suspension assembly of claim 1 wherein the high resistivity portion has a smaller thickness than the low resistivity portion.
3. The suspension assembly of claim 1 wherein the high resistivity portion includes an undulating pattern positioned proximate the bond pad.
4. The suspension assembly of claim 1 wherein four bond pads are positioned on the trailing edge face and four conductive traces are connected to the four bond pads to form electrical connections and wherein the high resistivity portion is positioned proximate each of the electrical connections.
5. The suspension assembly of claim 1 wherein the high resistivity portion is positioned in a plane generally perpendicular to the trailing edge face.

6. The suspension assembly of claim 1 wherein the high resistivity portion is positioned in a plane generally parallel to the trailing edge face.
7. The suspension assembly of claim 1 wherein the conductive trace is positioned in a flex circuit.
8. The suspension assembly of claim 7 wherein the conductive trace includes a trace bond pad and a bonding component is positioned on the trace bond pad, the bonding component providing an electrical conduit between the bond pad and the trace bond pad.
9. The suspension assembly of claim 7 wherein the heating element is positioned in the flex circuit.
10. The suspension assembly of claim 9 and further comprising a gimbal assembly attached to the slider.
11. The suspension assembly of claim 1 wherein the heating element is positioned in a flex circuit.
12. The suspension assembly of claim 1 wherein the heating element is adapted to provide heat to a bonding component, the bonding component providing an electrical conduit between the bond pad and the conductive trace.
13. A suspension assembly comprising:
  - a slider body having a trailing edge face and at least one bond pad positioned on the trailing edge face; and
  - means for providing an electrical connection between a conductive trace and the at least one bond pad.

14. The suspension assembly of claim 13 wherein the means include a heating element having a high resistivity portion and a low resistivity portion.

15. The suspension assembly of claim 14 wherein the high resistivity portion has a smaller thickness than the low resistivity portion.

16. The suspension assembly of claim 14 wherein the high resistivity portion includes an undulating pattern.

17. The suspension assembly of claim 14 wherein the high resistivity portion is positioned in a plane generally perpendicular to the trailing edge face.

18. The suspension assembly of claim 14 wherein the high resistivity portion is positioned in a plane generally parallel to the trailing edge face.

19. The suspension assembly of claim 13 wherein the means for providing are positioned on a flex circuit.

20. The suspension assembly of claim 13 and further comprising means for heating a bonding component to provide an electrical conduit between the conductive trace and the at least one bond pad.

21. The suspension assembly of claim 20 wherein the bonding component is positioned on a portion of the conductive trace.

22. A method for providing an electrical connection, comprising:  
providing a flexible circuit;

-13-

positioning a heating element within the flexible circuit;  
positioning a conductive trace within the flexible circuit;  
providing a slider having a bond pad; and  
heating a bonding component with the heating element to provide  
an electrical conduit between the conductive trace and the  
bond pad.

23. The method of claim 22 and further comprising applying a current to the heating element.

24. The method of claim 22 and further comprising positioning the bonding component on the conductive trace.

25. The method of claim 22 and further comprising insulating the heating element from the conductive trace.

26. The method of claim 22 wherein the heating element includes a high resistivity portion and a low resistivity portion, the low resistivity portion positioned proximate the bonding component.

27. The method of claim 26 and further comprising forming an undulating pattern in the low resistivity portion.